

### REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. This rejection has been obviated by the cancellation of claim 26 without prejudice. Thus, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 23 and 24 have been allowed. Claims 3-5, 7-15, 27 and 28 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form. Claims 4 and 5 depend from independent claim 3. Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form. Claims 8-15 depend from independent claim 7. Claim 27 has been rewritten in independent form. Claim 28 depends from independent claim 27. Thus, all of these claims are now be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 16, 19-22 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ganesh (US Patent 6,347,087 B1) in view of Soirinsuo (US Patent 6,148,001). Claims 2, 6, 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ganesh in view of Soirinsu and further in view of Caldara (US Patent 5,748,629). These contentions are respectfully traversed.

The rejections of claims 1 and 25 have been obviated by the cancellation of these claims without prejudice. Claims 2 and 6 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 3. Claims 16-22 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 7. Thus, claims 2, 6, and 16-22 each depend directly or indirectly from an allowable independent claim. Accordingly, these dependent claims are allowable for the reasons that their respective independent claims are allowable and for reciting allowable subject matter in their own right. Independent consideration and allowance of the dependent claims are requested.

The foregoing comments made with respect to positions taken by the Examiner are not to be construed as acquiescence by the applicant with other positions of the Examiner that have not been explicitly contested. Accordingly, applicant's arguments for patentability of a claim should

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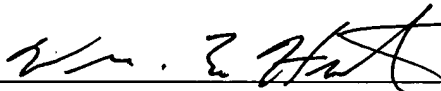
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not be construed as implying that there are not other good reasons for patentability of that claim or other claims.

Enclosed is a check for \$55.00 for the one month extension fee. Please apply any other necessary charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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